

Testimony
Raymond E. Drew
Administrator, WPCA
City of Torrington
Before the Environment Committee
February 19, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in **support of provisions in HB-5081, which increases funding for phosphorus reduction projects.**

As with the other affected communities - *Danbury-\$25-30 million, Southington-\$18.5 million, Wallingford-\$19 million, Meriden-\$13.5 million, Cheshire-\$7.2 million* - the City of Torrington is poised to incur \$13.4 million in debt to implement the currently proposed phosphorus reduction strategy, which is in addition to an estimated \$38 million for facility upgrades. In addition to the \$13.4 million debt service, it is estimated that this would add an additional \$400,000 to the annual operating budget which would result in a rate increase of 38%.

We are engaged in productive discussions with the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) relative to the renewal of our NPDES permit. However, phosphorus reduction is a statewide goal and, as such, the state should be required to pick up a greater percentage of the costs associated with achieving the standards it sets.

The City of Torrington supports the addition of language to the bill which would increase the percentage of costs which are eligible for reimbursement under the Clean Water Fund for phosphorus removal to 50%. This would reduce the burden on our residents and businesses and support implementation of this statewide goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in **support of HB-5081.**